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© *Courtesy of The Carnegie Institution of Washington*

UNCOVERING A MAYA ALTAR STONE AT IXLU IN GUATEMALA

This exquisitely carved stone was found tightly clasped in the roots of a large breadnut tree which towered above it. When the tree was felled the face of the altar turned up to the light for the first time in more than a thousand years. Experts have discovered the date which it carries to be equivalent to 620 A.D.

(See Bulletin No. 3)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Lossiemouth, Prime Minister MacDonald's Home Town

JAMES RAMSAY MACDONALD, England's Prime Minister, who has been visiting President Hoover in the White House, is a native of Lossiemouth, a village on the coast of Scotland.

In Lossiemouth stands a little cottage which the Premier and his daughter Ishbel call home. They went to this simple, modest home for their vacation this summer, and it was there that the Labor Party leader received Ambassador Dawes when he bore an invitation from President Hoover to visit the United States.

To reach Lossiemouth the American Ambassador traveled to Edinburgh, transferred, and rode on the Inverness line 221 miles farther north to a small fishing port and summer resort.

Premier MacDonald a Qualified Guide to Morayshire

The North Sea cuts two generous, pie-shaped pieces out of Scotland's shore that faces Europe. Edinburgh stands near the head of the southern bay, which is the Firth of Forth; Inverness is near the head of the northern bay, which is Moray Firth. Lossiemouth is on the south shore of Moray Firth, about 40 miles down from Inverness.

Ramsay MacDonald, son of a Lossiemouth laborer, is not the only famous man this region has known. The late Premier Asquith had a summer home at Hopeman, next-door neighbor to Lossiemouth. James Gordon Bennett, founder of the *New York Herald*, was born at Newmill. Shakespeare has immortalized a man who ruled the region 900 years ago—Macbeth, ancient king of Morayshire.

"He saw some of the beauties of Morayshire; he heard some of its historical stories," said Premier MacDonald in an address following Ambassador Dawes' visit.

No one is better qualified as a guide to Morayshire than the Premier. He himself has written down the stories and described the beauties in a book of his recollections and travels, "Wanderings and Excursions."

The Test of Boyhood Skill at Drainie School

Under a cliff stands the ruins of the castle-monastery of the Bishops of Moray, for whose possession young Ramsay MacDonald's boyhood gang fought another gang. Inland is the school the Premier revisits, but the nineteen trees are gone. At Drainie School no new boy was accepted by his fellows until he had swung through the nineteen tree tops like a squirrel, never touching the ground.

Not far from Lossiemouth, author MacDonald tells, is a sand dune country. Beneath the dunes is a mansion, buried as deep as Pompeii. The owner would play cards on the Sabbath, even were the devil his partner. A stranger came, and while they played the winds rose and the sand blew and covered the house. In Lossiemouth they say that when the gales come down from the northwest you may still hear the clink of coins as the game proceeds.

Bulletin No. 1, October 28, 1929.

© *Photograph from the Biologia Centrali-Americana*

MAYA SCULPTURE OF AN INITIATION CEREMONY

This sculptured panel, now in the British Museum, was originally carved on the under side of a door lintel in one of the temples of the great Maya city of Yaxchilan, in southern Mexico. A priest with a ceremonial staff is shown at the left, supervising a blood-letting ceremony, possibly by a neophyte, who is kneeling at the right. Note the gorgeous details of the priest's costume. The neophyte, scarcely less handsomely garbed, is engaged in drawing blood from himself by passing through a slit in his tongue a long piece of rope with sharp thorns fastened to it. A basin on the ground catches the drops of blood as they fall (See Bulletin No. 3).

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Uprising in China Booms Rare Book Values in Washington, D. C.

THE attacks of Chinese upon Moslems and also of Moslems upon Chinese, in Western China, bring about a strange result in Washington, D. C., where they have probably enhanced in value beyond all previously estimated prices a set of Tibetan classics.

The great Buddhist Monastery at Choni and all its valuable contents were burned by the same Moslem army which has massacred the inhabitants of border towns. In this monastery were housed the thousands of wooden blocks, 500 years old, from which the best sets of the Tibetan classics were once printed.

Two years ago, Dr. Joseph F. Rock, now leading a National Geographic Society expedition on the China-Tibetan border, 400 miles south of the rebellion area, was in Choni, and obtained for the Library of Congress a complete set of the Choni-printed classics, in 317 volumes. These priceless books are now on the Library's shelves in Washington.

Moslems Led by 18-Year-Old General

Details of the Moslem rebellion in Kansu, which have just reached the headquarters of the National Geographic Society through provincial papers published in China, indicate that the massacre at Dangar was only an incident in the troubles that have scourged western Kansu since October, 1928. In the region, 150 miles wide, between Dangar and Choni and in most of the surrounding towns and villages, according to these published reports, there has been destruction by massacre, pillage, and fire. Thousands of square miles of the once fertile countryside have been laid waste.

The chief force of Moslem raiders, according to provincial correspondents, consisted of 25,000 cavalrymen mounted on the best horses of the province, and led by an 18-year-old general, Ma Changying (called affectionately by his followers, Ka Si-ling, "Little General"). These hard-riding troopers have been known to dash, 10,000 strong, 110 miles in forty-seven hours over mountain ranges ten to twelve thousand feet high to avenge the defeat of some of their stragglers. In one such raid, across the Tibetan border, all the inhabitants of more than a hundred villages, from infants to old men and women, are said to have been wiped out.

Photographs of Famous Monastery Taken by Explorer Before Its Destruction

The region which has been the center of the massacres lies about 800 miles west and slightly south of Peiping (Peking) on the upper reaches of the Hwang-Ho or Yellow River, near where that stream crosses from its Tibetan source into China. A little to the northwest is the Koko Nor, great salt lake of northeastern Tibet. The region on the Chinese side is a land of deep valleys carved in the soft loess soil. In happier days the valley lands and the terraced hills produced much wheat and many vegetables, and supported numerous villages. The people are largely of Tibetan blood.

During his stay at Choni, Dr. Rock, through the friendliness of the Prince of Choni, was permitted to observe the ceremonies of Lamaism. His descriptions have been published in the *National Geographic Magazine*.* He took hundreds of

* See "Demon Dancers and Butter Gods of Choni," in *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1928. Also Cumulative Index of *National Geographic Magazine*, for many articles on China.

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MANY OF THE LAMAS ENGAGED IN THIS DEMON-BANISHING CEREMONY MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN RECENT MASSACRES

The retiring president-priest paces up and down the central aisle of the courtyard as he leads the chanting, preliminary to the ceremony of Le Chon Chaker. Four rows of lamas sit on strips of carpet at each side of the square. The orchestra is divided, with five drums and ten pairs of cymbals on each side of the cleared space. The important lamas sit in the front rows (See Bulletin No. 2).

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The Maya Country, Where Lindbergh Will Search for Lost Cities

ANNOUNCEMENT that Lindbergh will fly over Central American forests to hunt for lost ruined cities heralds the coming of a new aid to archaeologists in their studies of Maya civilization.

Up to now the chicle gatherers who supply America with chewing gum have been the archaeologists' mainstays. What known peaks of culture the Maya people attained and the part of chicle gatherers in revealing Maya mysteries are reported by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley in a communication to the National Geographic Society.

"During the first millennium before Christ, while yet our own forebears of northern Europe were plunged in the depths of barbarism," writes Dr. Morley, "there developed somewhere in Middle America, probably on the Gulf Coast of southern Mexico, a great aboriginal civilization called the Maya, which was destined to become the most brilliant expression of the ancient American mind.

"The Greeks of the New World"

"Somewhat later, probably about the beginning of the Christian era, the Maya seem to have found their way into what is now the northern part of Guatemala, the Department of Peten, and into the States of Chiapas and Tobasco, Mexico, and here for the next 600 years they flourished most amazingly.

"During these centuries this highly gifted people, not inaptly called 'the Greeks of the New World,' were slowly fighting upward from savagery through barbarism to the threshold of civilization.

"Their priests and astronomers were gathering from the stars the secrets of time and its accurate measure, the revolutions of the sun, moon, and the planets.

"Their mathematicians and chronologists devised a calendar and chronology which was without peer on this continent and excelled by none in the Old World at that time.

Creation of System of Writing Greatest Maya Achievement

"Their builders developed an architecture at once unique, dignified, and beautiful.

"Their sculptors carved the most elaborate compositions and designs in stone. Their leaders mastered the problems of social and governmental organization and administered the state adequately and well. In short, a great national life was quickening to its fullest expression.

"The zenith of their civilization, however—indeed, the intellectual climax of all civilizations—was the development of a hieroglyphic writing which, moreover, was the only system of writing in the New World worthy of comparison with the earlier graphic systems of the Old World, such as those of Egypt, of Babylonia, and of China, for example.

"This hieroglyphic writing was doubtless first developed upon wood, fiber-paper or skins, but shortly before the beginning of the Christian era it was transferred to stone, inscribed upon monuments and altars, which were erected in the courts and plazas in front of the principal temples of the different Maya cities.

"Buried in the vast tropical forests of northern Central America, and especially in the State of Guatemala, these splendid memorials of a forgotten people are slowly coming to light.

photographs, with detailed notes for color, of the monastery buildings, the library, the elaborate images and costumes, and of the ceremonial dances. It thus happens that this unique monastery, now in ashes in remote Western China, still lives pictorially in the archives of the National Geographic Society in Washington.

Bulletin No. 2, October 28, 1929.

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CHONI'S PRINTING BLOCK LIBRARY WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED

Carefully carved printing blocks in Choni library are more than 500 years old. If they have been destroyed by Moslem raiders, as reported, the works printed from them, at least, have been saved. Complete sets of the Tibetan classics were obtained by Dr. Joseph F. Rock and sent to the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. The official librarian of Choni lamasery stands beside his shelves in one of the two long rooms housing the Tandjur blocks. The blocks of the Kandjur are kept in two similar buildings. Impressions are carved on both sides, and a skillful lama requires four days to cut one block. It took sixteen years to carve the blocks of the Tandjur alone. The Kandjur contains 108 volumes; its commentary, the Tandjur, is in 209 volumes.

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Volcanic Eruptions Predicted in Hawaii

HURRICANES in the West Indies and southern United States, and volcanic eruptions in Hawaii each have their modern Paul Reveres, the official forecasters who warn the people of coming peril.

Eruption of one or more of Hawaii's giant volcanoes has been forecast by Dr. Thomas A. Jaggar, volcanologist, following severe earthquakes. Dr. Jaggar lives near the brink of Kilauea Volcano and watches its changing moods.

Up-Pressing Lava Stream Comes to the Surface in Two Vents

Although all the Hawaiian Islands are the product of volcanic action, Kilauea and Mauna Loa are the only active vents left. Both are situated on the largest of the isles, Hawaii, 200 miles southeast of Honolulu. This island is really still in the process of being built. Apparently underneath the island as a whole is a tremendous stream of up-pressing lava. First this parent stream built 13,800-foot Mauna Kea in the northern part of the island, then abandoned it, presumably because of the back pressure. Next 8,250-foot Hualalai was built to the west, and abandoned. Now the stream makes itself known simultaneously through Kilauea to the east, and Mauna Loa, near the center of the island.

Kilauea is the most accessible of the two volcanoes from Hilo, the capital and chief town of the island. Kilauea is called a mountain but it is really a part of the flank of Mauna Loa which rises 9,500 feet above it. Kilauea is a huge pit in a vast, gently sloping plain. In the center of this pit is a lake of lava—Halemaumau, "House of Everlasting Fire." It boils continually, even in periods that are considered inactive, and from time to time the lake rises and great eruptions occur.

Dr. Jaggar Watches Earthquake Records and Lava Pits

It is Mauna Loa, however, which is responsible for the greatest activity. To this higher vent, apparently, leads one of the chief channels of molten matter. Frequently this liquid material has broken through the shoulders of the mountain and sent a river of fire down its slopes. On a number of occasions these flows of molten rock have reached the edges of the island, and have plunged over the cliffs in great Niagaras of fire. One such flow in 1880 made straight for Hilo, and congealed when its front was only a few hundred feet from the edge of the town.

Earthquakes caused by the volcanic disturbances beneath constantly shake the Island of Hawaii. It is on the record of these quakes, combined with the waxing and waning of the lava pits in Kilauea and Mauna Loa, that Dr. Jaggar bases his predictions of future eruptions.

Bulletin No. 4, October 28, 1929.

New Ruined Cities Being Discovered Year after Year

"Year after year archaeological expeditions sent out by American scientific institutions are penetrating deeper and deeper into these virgin fastnesses and are discovering new ruined cities, from the monuments and hieroglyphic inscriptions of which we are gradually reconstructing the outlines of ancient Maya history.

"The only other business which brings man into these tropical forests of northern Guatemala is one of our most important American industries, what might be termed, perhaps, our national sport—chewing gum.

"The principal ingredient of chewing gum is 'chicle,' which is obtained from a tree called the 'chico-sapote,' growing in these forests. Indeed, the archaeologist is deeply indebted to the chicle business for bringing him first news of new cities found in the bush from time to time by the chicle hunters.

Standing Reward to Chicle Gatherers for Report of Unknown Ruins

"A standing reward is offered to all *chicleros* for 'information leading to the capture, dead or alive,' of any new group of ruins where there are hieroglyphic monuments, and this expedient has resulted in the discovery of several important cities.

"It is the chicle operators who keep the trails open; who locate the water-holes for camping-places; who maintain mule-trains, the only means of transportation possible in the region; whose activities bring labor into the bush. In short, in this field, at least, the archaeologist could scarcely pursue his profession were it not for our popular pastime of chewing gum."

Bulletin No. 3, October 28, 1929.

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Poznan, Cradle of Polish Race, Scene of Tenth Anniversary Fete

POLAND has been celebrating the tenth birthday of its restoration with a national exposition in the City of Poznan.

Selection of Poznan (Posen, when it was capital of German Poland) is a bow to sentiment because this city is the "cradle of the Polish race." The Slavs, pushing west, clashed with the Teutons. The advance ended in Poznan Province, where the Poles set up a church at Gniezno. For 800 years the religious life of Poland has centered about that ancient edifice in the ancient settlement not far from Poznan.

"Poznan is the most thoroughly Polish and most modern city in the Republic," says a communication from Maynard Owen Williams to the National Geographic Society. "The morning of my arrival this cradle of the Polish race was half hid by a mist which gave grace to the bulky palace of the Kaiser, added just the proper note of northern softness to the classic facade of the Raczynski Library, and banished the ugly from the buildings overhanging the Warta, in whose dark waters great blocks of ice were slowly floating.

Ashes of Poland's First Kings Rest in Cathedral

"In the Poznan Cathedral rest the ashes of Poland's first kings, and here their statues stand like royal actors in a historical pageant.

"There is something splendid about the little gold chapel in this dusty old church on the tranquil island where the first settlement stood, just as Paris grew up around the Cité on which Notre Dame was to rise.

"Fire and flood have assailed that old cathedral time and again, and, although it has not always withstood, it withstands. So with the Poles. Defeats have been many and humiliations common, but to-day the Kaiser's palace is given over to university halls thronged with Polish students, and the huge building which was the German Colonization Office now serves a like purpose for the Poles. The bulky German theater is now the opera. There I heard 'Carmen' sung in Polish and caught another sidelight on Poland.

Poznan Has More Poles than Other Cities of the Republic

"When the downfall of the Central Powers occurred, the world was surprised by the cooperation between three groups, nominally Russian, German and Austrian, but actually Polish. Oppression by three distinct powers had done for the Poles what they, in the later days of the kingdom, had not been able to do for themselves—given them a national consciousness.

"Poznan gives one an unusual opportunity to study the Poles, not because they are more Polish than their brothers in Warsaw or Lwow, but because, since they form 95 per cent of the population and are among the most progressive of their race, each can be less aggressively Polish than in a city where they form a bare majority of the citizens."

The German Colonization Office in Poznan, which has been converted into a Polish university, was the focus of a stubborn, bloodless battle before the World War. Soon after the partition of Poland, Germany decided to Teutonize her share. She suppressed the Polish language and put up a huge sum of money for

© Photograph by Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

MAUNA LOA BATTERY OF LAVA FOUNTAINS SHOOTING 200 FEET HIGH AND FORMING A BARRAGE HALF A MILE LONG

(See Bulletin No. 4)

the purchase of farm lands which were given over to German immigrants. The Poles organized banks and land societies, and raised land values. They clung to their land even when Germany passed expropriation laws and rules which did not permit a Pole to erect a house without a permit—and permits were not granted.

Germany Encouraged Industries Which Poznan Has Inherited

German control centered in the Colonization Office in Poznan, but, despite the most strenuous efforts, the number of Germans in Poznan Province declined. Some German settlers even became absorbed into Polish life, revising their customs and points of view.

The result of desperate rivalry was that, when Germany broke in 1918, Poznan rose Phoenixlike, equipped with Polish leaders skilled in politics, finance and national economy.

Germany fostered industry in German Poland, so Poznan has fallen heir to many smokestacks. The city manufactures machinery and furniture. Its province is a rich granary. Grain and potatoes collected at Poznan are sent to feed the hungry workers in the mills of Silesia.

Bulletin No. 5, October 28, 1929.

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BRIGHT PEASANT COSTUMES OF POLAND WERE CONSPICUOUS IN POZNAN THIS SUMMER

The United States takes a particular interest in the growth and development of New Poland. Investments of American capital in Poland reach a considerable total and American trade with the people increases annually.